

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An upright multiple-drawer storage cabinet, comprising:

an upright hollow housing having an upright wall arrangement including generally parallel but sidewardly spaced separate right and left upright sidewall structures which adjacent rear edges are joined by an upright rear wall structure, the housing defining therein an interior chamber, and a front side of the housing defining therein an access opening for accessing said interior chamber;

each said sidewall structure having an enlarged and generally planar upright exterior sidewall;

each said sidewall structure also having front and rear vertically elongate and parallel uprights ~~fixed to~~at an inside surface of said exterior sidewall so that the front and rear uprights on one said sidewall structure are disposed generally in opposed and facing relationship to the respective front and rear uprights ~~fixed to~~of the opposite sidewall structure, each of said front and rear uprights having a plurality of vertically-spaced openings extending horizontally therethrough;

a plurality of horizontally movable drawer units positioned within the interior chamber of the housing in vertically adjacent relationship one above the other, each said drawer unit having a pair of horizontally elongate slide units fixed to opposite sides thereof, each said slide unit having a rail structure provided with front and rear flanges which respectively engage in one of the openings respectively associated with the front and rear uprights associated with an adjacent said sidewall structure; and

each said sidewall structure, including the exterior sidewall and the respective uprights ~~fixed thereto being an integral, being a monolithic, one-piece structure~~ formed from a single flat metal sheet.

2. (Previously presented) A cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein said right and left sidewall structures are identical, and wherein the front and rear uprights are mirror images of one another as defined about a vertically extending centerline of the respective sidewall structure, whereby each said sidewall structure may function as either a right or left side of the housing.

3. (Previously presented) A cabinet according to Claim 1, wherein each of said front and rear uprights is a generally channel-shaped member which is positioned adjacent and extends generally vertically along a respective vertically-extending edge of the exterior sidewall so that a leg of the respective front and rear channel-shaped member respectively defines a front and rear surface of the respective sidewall.

4. (Previously presented) A cabinet according to Claim 3, wherein the sidewall structure is roll-formed from said flat metal sheet.

5. (Previously presented) A cabinet according to Claim 4, wherein said right and left sidewall structures are identical, and wherein the front and rear uprights are mirror images of one another as defined about a vertically extending centerline of the respective sidewall structure, whereby each said sidewall structure may function as either a right or left side of the housing.

6. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 2, wherein said rear wall structure is defined by a monolithic, one-piece structure having a generally planar upright rear wall provided

with flanges extending along opposite vertical edges thereof so that said rear wall fits between and is rigidly secured to said right and left sidewall structures during assembly of said housing.

7. (Previously presented) An upright multiple-drawer storage cabinet comprising:

an upright hollow housing having an upright wall arrangement including generally parallel but sidewardly spaced right and left upright sidewall structures which adjacent rear edges are joined by an upright rear wall structure, the housing defining therein an interior chamber, and a front side of the housing defining therein an access opening for accessing said interior chamber;

the housing having a horizontally enlarged base fixed to and closing off a lower end thereof, said horizontally enlarged base being defined by a closed but rigid hollow box structure which defines a horizontally extending footprint of the housing for supportive engagement with a floor, the hollow box structure being defined by a one-piece monolithic upper box member which opens downwardly and a one-piece monolithic lower box member which opens upwardly, said upper and lower box members being vertically telescopically nested one within the other and fixedly secured together to define an open interior therebetween;

each said sidewall structure having an enlarged and generally planar upright exterior sidewall;

each said sidewall structure also having front and rear vertically elongate and parallel uprights fixed to an inside surface of said exterior sidewall so that the front and rear uprights on one said sidewall structure are disposed generally in opposed and facing relationship to the respective front and rear uprights fixed to the opposite sidewall structure, each of said front and rear uprights having a plurality of vertically-spaced openings extending horizontally therethrough;

a plurality of horizontally movable drawer units positioned within the interior chamber of the housing in vertically adjacent relationship one above the other, each said drawer unit having a pair of horizontally elongate slide units fixed to opposite sides thereof, each said slide unit having a rail structure provided with front and rear flanges which respectively engage in one of the openings respectively associated with the front and rear uprights associated with an adjacent said sidewall structure; and

each said sidewall structure including the exterior sidewall and the uprights fixed thereto being an integral, monolithic, one-piece structure formed from a single flat metal sheet.

8. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 7, wherein each said sidewall structure has the exterior sidewall thereof positioned to vertically overlap an end wall of said hollow box structure, and said uprights terminating short of a lower edge of said exterior sidewall so that said uprights have lower edges which overlap and substantially rest on an upper surface of said hollow box structure.

9. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 7, wherein said hollow box structure has narrow slots which open vertically therethrough and open inwardly a limited extent from front and rear edge surfaces thereof in the vicinity of each corner, and each said sidewall structure adjacent a lower corner thereof having a generally L-shaped flange which wraps around the corner of the hollow box structure and projects into the respectively adjacent slot.

10. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 7, wherein the opposed upper and lower box members have edge walls which cooperate to define elongate tubular structures which extend horizontally lengthwise along respective peripheral edges of the hollow box structure.

11. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 7, wherein the opposed upper and lower box members have edge walls which extend therearound and which cooperate to define elongate tubular structures which extend horizontally lengthwise along the front, rear and both side peripheral edges of the hollow box structure.

12. (Original) An upright storage cabinet, comprising:
a rigid upright housing defining therein a hollow interior, said housing having a pair of generally parallel upright sidewall structures which at upper and lower ends are rigidly joined by respective top and bottom wall arrangements and which are secured to a rear wall for closing off a rear side of the housing, the housing on the front side thereof being defined by a front access opening which extends both vertically and horizontally over a substantial majority of the front side of the housing for allowing access to the hollow interior thereof;

said bottom wall arrangement being defined by a closed but rigid hollow box structure which defines the horizontally extending footprint of the housing for supportive engagement with a floor, said hollow box structure being defined by a one-piece monolithic upper box member which opens downwardly and telescopes with a one-piece monolithic lower box member which opens upwardly, said upper and lower box members being vertically nested and fixed together to define an open interior therebetween;

said hollow box structure having a narrow slot which opens transversely inwardly from a longitudinally-extending front and rear side face of the box structure in closely adjacent relationship to each corner thereof, said slot also opening vertically upwardly of the hollow box structure;

said sidewall structure including a generally planar upright exterior sidewall having a pair of uprights fixed adjacent an inside surface thereof and extending vertically

along opposite upright edges thereof, said uprights having openings in vertically spaced relation therealong;

each said sidewall structure also including a generally L-shaped flange associated with each lower corner of said exterior sidewall and cooperating with a corner of the hollow box structure so that the L-shaped flange has one leg thereof extending along the face of the box corner and the other leg of the L-shaped flange projecting into the respective slot so that the exterior wall and the respective L-shaped flange cooperate to reinforce the respective corner.

13. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 12, wherein each said sidewall structure including the associated uprights is formed as an integral, monolithic one-piece structure formed from a single piece of metal sheet.

14. (Original) A cabinet according to Claim 13, wherein the right and left sidewall structures are identical and each can be used to define either a right or left sidewall arrangement of the housing.

15. (Currently amended) An upright housing for a storage cabinet, comprising:

an upright wall arrangement including generally parallel but sidewardly spaced right and left upright sidewall structures which adjacent rear edges are joined by an upright rear wall structure, the housing defining therein an interior chamber, and a front side of the housing defining therein an access opening for accessing said interior chamber;

a top wall structure extending horizontally across an upper end of said upright wall arrangement and fixedly joined thereto for closing off the upper end of the housing;

a horizontally large base fixed to and closing off a lower end of said upright wall arrangement, said base defining a horizontally extending footprint of the housing for supportive engagement with a floor;

each said sidewall structure having an enlarged and generally planar upright exterior sidewall;

each said sidewall structure also having front and rear vertically elongate and parallel uprights of generally channel-shaped cross section ~~fixed to~~ an inside surface of said exterior sidewall so that the front and rear uprights on one said sidewall structure are disposed generally in opposed and facing relationship to the respective front and rear uprights ~~fixed to~~ of the opposite sidewall structure;

each said sidewall structure, including the exterior sidewall and the respective uprights, ~~fixed thereto~~ being an ~~integral,~~ a monolithic, one-piece structure formed from a single flat metal sheet; and

each of said right and left sidewall structures being identical.

16. (Previously presented) An upright housing for a storage cabinet, comprising:

an upright wall arrangement including generally parallel but sidewardly spaced right and left upright sidewall structures which adjacent rear edges are joined by an upright rear wall structure, the housing defining therein an interior chamber, and a front side of the housing defining therein an access opening for accessing said interior chamber;

a top wall structure extending horizontally across an upper end of said upright wall arrangement and fixedly joined thereto for closing off the upper end of the housing;

a horizontally large base fixed to and closing off a lower end of said upright wall arrangement, said base defining a horizontally extending footprint of the housing for supportive engagement with a floor;

said base defined by a closed but rigid hollow box structure having generally horizontal top and bottom walls disposed in closely adjacent but vertically spaced relationship and rigidly joined by peripheral edge walls which extend vertically between the top and bottom walls and

horizontally along substantially the entire peripheral edges thereof;

each said sidewall structure having an enlarged and generally planar upright exterior sidewall;

each said sidewall structure also having front and rear vertically elongate and parallel uprights of generally channel-shaped cross section fixed to an inside surface of said exterior sidewall so that the front and rear uprights on one said sidewall structure are disposed generally in opposed and facing relationship to the respective front and rear uprights fixed to the opposite sidewall structure; and

each said sidewall structure including the exterior sidewall and the uprights fixed thereto being an integral, monolithic, one-piece structure formed from a single flat metal sheet.

17. (Original) A housing according to Claim 16, wherein the peripheral edge walls associated with the hollow box structure and their cooperation with the top and bottom walls define elongate tubular structures which extend horizontally lengthwise along front, rear and both side edges of the hollow box structure.

18. (Original) A housing according to Claim 16, wherein each said sidewall structure adjacent lower corners thereof is provided with L-shaped flanges which overlies the corners of the hollow box structure to effect reinforcement of the corners.

19. (Original) A housing according to Claim 18, wherein the hollow box structure has a transverse slot opening horizontally inwardly thereof in the vicinity of each said corner, and the flange associated with each corner of the sidewall structure includes a cantilevered leg part which projects into the slot positioned adjacent the respective corner of the hollow box structure.

20. (Currently amended) A process for forming a housing of a storage cabinet wherein the housing includes an upright sidewall arrangement having top and bottom wall arrangements fixed at respective upper and lower ends thereof, comprising the steps of:

providing an enlarged flat metal sheet having a flat center sheet portion which extends lengthwise of the sheet and is coplanar with and located between flat side sheet portions which terminate at opposite side edges of the sheet;

forming a series of openings through each of the side sheet portions in spaced relationship from the respective side edge;

forming each of the opposite side sheet portions of the flat sheet into a channel shaped part with at least some of said openings being associated with the channel shaped part;

folding each of said side sheet portions relative to the center sheet portion so that the respective channel shaped parts directly overlies at least a section of the center sheet portion;

fixing each said channel shaped part ~~to~~at an inner surface of said center sheet portion to define a monolithic one-piece sidewall structure defined by said flat center sheet portion having ~~a pair of channels fixed to~~said channel shaped parts at the inner surface thereof and extending lengthwise therealong adjacent opposite edges;

providing two of said sidewall structures and positioning said sidewall structures in spaced and opposed parallel relationship so that the ~~uprights~~channel shaped parts are disposed in opposed and facing relationship;

positioning and fixing an enlarged upright rear wall arrangement to rear edges of said two sidewall structures to define an upright wall arrangement; and

closing off upper and lower ends of said upright sidewall arrangement by fixing respective top and bottom walls thereto.

21. (Previously presented) A process for forming a housing according to Claim 20, wherein each said monolithic one-piece sidewall structure is roll-formed from said flat metal sheet.

22. (Previously presented) A process for forming a housing according to Claim 20, wherein the step of providing two of said sidewall structures comprises providing two identical said sidewall structures.

23. (Previously presented) A process for forming a housing according to Claim 20, wherein the openings in the side sheet portions are formed in each said channel shaped part and are aligned therealong to permit mounting of side rails associated with drawers.

24. (Previously presented) A process for forming a housing according to Claim 20, wherein the step of forming the series of openings comprises punching or stamping the flat metal sheet prior to forming of the channel-shaped parts.

25. (Previously presented) The cabinet according to Claim 1, further comprising a separate top wall structure extending horizontally across an upper end of said upright wall arrangement and fixedly joined thereto for closing off the upper end of the housing.